

HB 2585 -- ILLEGAL GAMBLING

SPONSOR: Bondon

Currently, the Missouri Gaming Commission is allowed to enter into agreements with various federal, state, and local agencies to carry out the duties of the Commission. This bill also allows the Commission to enter into agreements with such agencies for investigations relating to and the enforcement of criminal provisions relating to illegal gambling.

The bill specifies that the Commission shall refer violation reports to the Missouri Highway Patrol for investigation. If the Highway Patrol finds sufficient evidence of illegal gambling, the complaint is referred to the prosecuting attorney and the Supervisor of Alcohol and Tobacco Control is notified. Upon a request by the prosecuting attorney, the Attorney General may aid the prosecuting attorney in prosecuting violations referred by the Commission (Sections 43.380, RSMo).

This bill also allows the Supervisor of Alcohol and Tobacco Control to refer to the Commission any suspected illegal gambling activity being conducted on the premises of a location licensed under the Alcohol and Tobacco Control Law (Section 311.660).

Upon notification by the Commission or a law enforcement agency of possession of an illegal gambling device, the Supervisor of Alcohol and Tobacco Control shall suspend or revoke such person's license on such terms and conditions as the Supervisor deems appropriate, provided such person shall be given 10 days to remove the illegal gambling device from the premises prior to the suspension or revocation of a license. The Supervisor of Alcohol and Tobacco Control shall not be required to give a person 10 days period upon a second or subsequent notification of a violation (Section 311.680).

Currently, a sheriff, peace officer, or eight or more citizens of a county or city are allowed to bring an action in circuit court to initiate proceedings to suspend or revoke a license issued under the Liquor Control Law as a result of certain offenses committed by a licensee. This bill adds permitting illegal gambling devices on the licensed premises of a licensee to such list of offenses (Section 311.710).

This bill requires the Gaming Commission to establish a telephone contact number, which shall be prominently displayed on the Commission's website, to receive reports of suspected illegal gambling activity (Section 313.004).

This bill provides that any conviction in this state for illegal gambling activity involving an illegal gambling device shall result in the automatic and permanent revocation of a lottery game retailer license (Section 313.255).

This bill modifies the definitions of "gambling device" and "slot machine" for the purposes of provisions of law relating to the prosecution of illegal gambling (Section 572.010).

This bill defines the terms "net proceeds", "raffle" or "sweepstakes", and "sponsor" for the purposes of Article III, Section 39(f) of the Missouri Constitution authorizing charitable and religious organizations to sponsor raffles or sweepstakes (Section 572.015).

This bill contains an emergency clause.

This bill is similar to SS SCS SB 530 (2020).